

Director's Letter

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I am pleased to submit the Department of Transportation's annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2000. Exciting things have been happening at the HDOT in Fiscal Year 2000.

We made the transition into the year 2000 with no glitches, launched a year-long demonstration ferry project, redesigned our website, built an emergency bypass road on the North Shore of Oahu, began our multi-million dollar H-1 Corridor construction project, launched a year-long statewide "Drive Safely, Arrive Alive" campaign, revitalized our Safe Communities Program and implemented our Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) transition plans.

These innovative projects and programs have allowed us to promote the rapid, safe and economical movement of people and goods into, within and out of the state.

In Fiscal Year 2000, an Internet committee was formed to develop the Department's Internet/WWW Development Policy. This policy encourages developing the Internet and is designed to regulate the consistency in format and content to make it clear, easy and accessible for all users. The committee was spearheaded by the PPB Management and Analytical Office.

The old HDOT website was replaced by a newer, redesigned website in February 2000. On the new site, each of the divisions is responsible for posting the most current information about its organization and services.

The Airports Division acquired 757 acres of surplus land at Barbers Point Naval Air Station as Kalaeloa Airport on July 1, 1999 to be used for general aviation aircraft. It will

continue to serve as an alternate airport for the many commercial air carriers serving the State of Hawaii. In addition, the new airport will support disaster relief and civil defense operations.

The HDOT also increased its presence at Port Allen Airport (Burns Field) near Hanapepe on Kauai by allowing helicopter operations from the airport to begin in November.

Our Harbors Division issued its Kahului Commercial Harbors 2025 Master Plan and will begin the Kauai Commercial Harbors Master Plan in summer 2000. The updated master plan will be a guide to develop, maintain and enhance the commercial harbors system to ensure it is efficient, safe, accessible and economical operations.

Harbors also hosted the Pacific Coast Association of Port Authorities (PCAPA) 86th Annual Conference August 15-19 at the Pacific Beach Hotel in Waikiki. The theme of this conference was "Preparing for Passengers and Cargo in the New Millennium," and covered a range of maritime interests with local, national and international participants.

It was a very busy year for our Highways Division. On Monday, March 6, a rockslide on Kamehameha Highway in the vicinity of Waimea Bay cutoff access for residents as the highway was shut down.

A temporary Menehune Connector road was built on the beach out of sand and geoweb fabric for motorists to travel across the bay as a new realigned Kamehameha Highway was being constructed. The realigned highway was built in three months and opened on Saturday, June 10. The new highway was constructed by building mechanically

stabilized earthwall system 36-feet from the middle of the present highway on the makai side and then filled with earth materials. By realigning the highway, the new road provided a permanent solution. It was built away from the cliff face and the old road is now used as a boulder catchment area.

Innovative flashing warning lights at the Pali Highway and Jack Lane intersection were installed in April to improve pedestrian safety until a traffic light can be installed. This system is designed to alert approaching motorists of an occupied crosswalk ahead.

The Highways Division also began its multi-million dollar resurfacing project on the H-1 Freeway between the Punchbowl Street off-ramp to the Kapiolani Interchange. A new website was developed for this project. The H-1 Corridor construction website can be found at: www.state.hi.us/dot/publicaffairs/h-1corridor.

The first Hawaii Traffic Safety Forum was held on November 29 through December 3 at the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel on Oahu. There were more than 750 attendees from throughout the world and featured tracks in engineering, education, enforcement and other traffic safety issues.

We partnered with police departments statewide, the Department of Health, State Farm Insurance, Meadow Gold Dairies, KSSK, MADD and 7-Eleven Hawaii to launch a statewide campaign on traffic safety.

Under the name, "Drive Safely, Arrive Alive," the campaign focused on 14 areas of concern related to traffic safety. The campaign kick-off was in January and targeted aggressive driving. Throughout the year, other topics such as child

safety and booster seats, zero tolerance, speeding, seat belts and other safety issues were addressed.

The department has recently revitalized its highway safety program with a new pro-active approach. The name has been changed to the Safe Community Program to reflect its new direction.

The goal of the Safe Community Program is to reduce injuries and fatalities from traffic crashes in Hawaii. It has a multi-pronged approach and works hand-in-hand with various agencies and community groups to provide education and funding for highway safety projects.

In recent legislation, Act 255 was passed and will require bikeriders under age 16 to wear a helmet. Also passed was Act 294, SB 2311, which will increase the fine of \$20 to \$45 for each violation of mandatory seat belt use, and requires backseat passengers between the age of 4 to 17 to use seat belts. Act 189, the repeat offender and DUI consolidation bill, revokes the vehicle registration of repeat intoxicated drivers.

A Driver's Education Task Force was formed to implement Act 175, the new mandatory driver education law. The new driver education law takes effect on January 1, 2001 and requires persons under age 18 to complete a driver's education program and a behind-the-wheel driver training course certified by the HDOT before receiving a driver's license. Act 175 also increases the age to be eligible for an instruction permit to 15 years and six months, and a driver's license to 16 years. The Task Force surveyed existing driver education instructors and private driving schools.

As part of its ongoing effort to offer innovative transportation alternatives, the HDOT launched an intra-island sea ferry between Kalaeloa Barbers Point Harbor and Honolulu Harbor's Pier 9 at Aloha Tower Marketplace in October 1999. The Wiki Wiki Ferry is operating as a one-year trial demonstration project at an estimated cost of \$2.9 million.

At the end of this one-year demonstration project, the HDOT will analyze the information from the study to include costs, passenger demand, comfort, convenience, and facility and operational requirements to identify the parameters necessary for a viable commuter ferry system.

In addition to these efforts to reduce congestion through innovative transportation alternatives, the Rideshare Office is offering the School Pool program. School Pool was initiated and is available to all public and private elementary, middle and high school students in the Honolulu area.

School Pool is a free service for students and their families who wish to form a car pool to and from school. The Rideshare Office uses an innovative computer program to identify students whom make the best potential School Pool partners based on their home and school locations.

This program is also a convenient alternative for parents who cannot drive their children to school every day. It reduces the congestion at drop-off and pick-up points when two or more people share a ride. With School Pool, student pick-up and drop-off areas aren't as crowded and parents spend less time in line. There is also increased safety for children. Shorter loading lines mean less traffic around schools and more

safety for students.

The Rideshare Office also oversees Vanpool Hawaii. This year, Vanpool is introducing Cool Pool, the next generation of commuter programs. The Cool Pool works the same as a vanpool but it features a black Dodge Caravan or Durango. There are 180 vans operating statewide.

Renovations to the Alii Aimoku Building at 869 Punchbowl Street began in September 1999 and were completed in January 2000. During this renovation period, the Computer Systems & Services, Statewide Transportation Planning and Highways Division Planning offices moved to the Alii Aimoku Building.

The HDOT's ADA coordinator, Michael Medeiros, was named to the Public Rights-of-Way Access Advisory Committee. This committee, established by the U.S. Architectural and Transportation Compliance Board (Access Board), develops rules on accessibility for newly constructed and altered public rights-of-way.

Congratulations to our 1999 HDOT Manager of the Year, Ernest Kurosawa, Employee of the Year, Armando Corpuz, and Team of the Year, Harbors Maui District Maintenance Section.

Kazu Hayashida
Director